MILITARY COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN
(MCCW)

SUBMITTED BY
CHAPLAIN (MAJOR) HAROLD F ROTH

CHAPLAIN OFFICER ADVANCED COURSE
16-A-C4 (61-1)

US ARMY CHAPLAIN SCHOOL
FORT SLOCUM, NEW YORK
28 November 1960

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THE MILITARY COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN (MCCW)

OUTLINE

PURPOSE:

1. To explain the Military Council of Catholic Women and demonstrate its assistance to the Catholic Chaplain in Military Service.
   a. Purpose of lay organizations in the Catholic Church.
   b. Purpose of Lay organizations in the Military.

2. The National Catholic Welfare Council.
   a. Original organization founded by Catholic Bishops in the U. S.
   b. National Council of Catholic Women - parent organization.

3. The Military Council of Catholic Women
   a. Definition of MCCW.
   b. Purpose of MCCW.

4. History of the MCCW.
   a. Background.
   b. Reason for establishing MCCW
   c. Founding - date - place - etc.

5. Structure of the MCCW

   a. Military Council - Hq.

   b. Area Council

   c. Chapel Group.

6. Committees within the MCCW (Standing Committees)

   a. Confraternity of Christian Doctrine.

   b. Spiritual Development.

   c. International Relations.

   d. Organization and Development.

7. Evaluation of the MCCW

   a. Message of Ch (Col) James J. Mc Mahon.

   b. To the Laity.

   c. To the Chaplain.

8. Concluding statement - Message of Pope John XXIII to MCCW.

THE MILITARY COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN (MCCW)

In the peace-time army the dependents of the military men become an integral part of the military structure. Much time and effort is expended, by the Department of Defense, in providing the necessary services required by the presence of dependents at the military installations.

Just as the Department of the Army must wrestle with the logistical problems of housing, schooling, medical care, hospitalization and transportation so also must the military chaplain be concerned with the religious care of dependents at the various military camps, posts and stations.

This 'Religious Care' is not simply a matter of administering the Sacraments and counseling the soldier, but extends to providing a religious program of education for the children and a continued religious development of the adult.

Since the dependents occupy this position in the military structure, this Monograph will endeavour to explain the Military Council of Catholic Women and its role in assisting the Catholic Chaplain in the religious care of the army dependents.

The role of the laity has long been an important factor in the development of the Catholic Church. In recent years, through Catholic Action, in its various forms, such as Societies and Sodalities, the laity

have played an ever increasing role in the life of the Church. The Knights of Columbus, founded in New Haven, Connecticut, 1882, the Holy Name Society, established in 1283 at the command of Pope Gregory X, and the National Catholic Welfare Council based upon the Papal Brief, "Communis", of Pope Benedict XV, April 10, 1919, among others demonstrate what has been done and what is being done at the present time by Lay organizations.

On September 29, 1957, Pope Pius XII addressed the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations and said the following:

> "We are pleased, first of all, to stress the importance of your association and the great influence it exercises, since you now enjoy an advisory status in the Economic and Social Councils of United Nations, in UNESCO, in FAO, In ILO, in UNICEF, on the Council of Europe and in the Organization of American States. You are, therefore, in a position to make known to the most varied sectors of public opinion the ideals of the Church on the development of the personality of the woman and her mission in the modern world. ---- We congratulate, through you, the thirty-six million Catholic Women who are registered members of the National Organizations which form your Union which you represent here". (1)

His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York and Military Vicar to the Armed Forces of the United States has urged Catholic Chaplains in military service to establish and foster lay organizations among his Catholic subjects in the military services. From the VADEMECUM for Catholic Chaplains we find the following exhortation:

> "We urge you to make use of the many organizations in the Church

which are useful in keeping alive and strengthening the spiritual life of those entrusted to your care". (2)

In a news letter of October 1960 to Catholic Chaplains the Military Vicar again stressed the importance of lay organizations in the military and offered assistance in establishing these organizations as the following quotation will indicate.

> "As you know so well, the military installations are becoming more and more like parishes as the housing areas are being constructed for the wives and children. We encourage the Chaplains to plan now to have all the parochial activities that they would have in their 'home parish', thus, we would be happy to assist you in promoting the Sodality of Our Blessed Mother, Holy Name Society, Rosary Society, Nocturnal Adoration Society, the Legion of Mary, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Christian Family Movement, Archconfraternity of Christian Mothers, Knights of the Altar, Confraternity of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, etc. --- whichever organization you think would be of spiritual assistance to the flock entrusted to your care." (3)

From these quotations it is obvious that both Pope Pius XII and Our Military Vicar, His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, with that use be made of lay organizations.

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(1) The Pope Speaks, Volume 4, October 1958.
(2) Vademecum, paragraph 28, Parochial Societies.
(3) Letter of Cardinal Spellman to Catholic Chaplains, October 1960.

The National Catholic Welfare Council (NCWC)

To understand fully the Military Council of Catholic Women it is necessary to know the background of the organization from which it sprang, namely the National Catholic Welfare Council. During the first World War, (1918 - 1919) the Catholic Bishops of the United States formed an organization known as the National Catholic War Council. This Organization was to assist people who had suffered as a result of the war. On February 20, 1919, as a successor to the National Catholic War Council, the National Catholic Welfare Council was called into being by the Catholic Bishops of the United States.

The first meeting was held on September 24, 1919. The conference has advisory powers only, not jurisdictional, and as such is not looked upon as a formal council. Thus, when not in formal council, the bishops merely deliberate, suggest and recommend to all bishops their resolutions for universal adoption throughout the country. Yearly the conference prepares and publicizes a joint statement expressive of the common viewpoint of the assembled bishops. The conference is organized to direct its attention to a wide variety of national problems concerning the Church and to procedures which, while friendly recommendations, bear the dignity of the teaching sphere of the Church. In this organization there is first an administrative board, which meets annually in the spring at Washington, D. C. This board is headed by a chairman elected by the board members for a period of one year and he is assisted by a vice-chairman, secretary and treasurer. The work of this board is to supervise

the various departments. Based on the Papal Brief, "Communes", of Pope Benedict XV, dated April 10, 1919, these departments are: Executive Department, Department of Education, Legal Department, Press Department, Department of Catholic Action Study, Department of Lay Organizations, Department of Social Action, and the Department of Youth. Besides these standing departments there are a number of episcopal committees, each concerned with special work of current importance.

Since the Military Council of Catholic Women is a Lay Organization it finds its place in the National Catholic Welfare Council in the Department of Lay Organizations.

National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW)

The National Council of Catholic Women was established by the Bishops of the United States in 1920 as an integral part of the National Catholic Welfare Council. It may be defined as a federation of Catholic Women's Clubs in the United States and in the military services engaged in Catholic Action Programs. The purpose of the federation is to provide unity of purpose, direction and action in religious, educational, social and economical areas. Through program, field services and publications, the NCCW stimulates and gives assistance to the work of eleven thousand affiliated organizations in ninety seven archdioces, dioces and military installations, with membership of approximately nine million members.

This federation of Catholic Women's Clubs in the National Council of Catholic Women may be compared to the federation of the states in the national government of the United States. As the national government is not a state in itself, so NCCW is not an organization in itself. As the national government does not interfere with the independence of the member states, so NCCW does not interfere with the independence of its member organizations. Just as the national government does not set up new states, neither does NCCW set up new organizations. Both, the national government and the NCCW, assist already existing states and organizations.

As a federation the NCCW unites the already existing women's clubs for the common good. The individual woman belongs to her local club. The local club in turn affiliates with the deanery (1) or diocesan (2) council which in its turn affiliates with the National Council of Catholic Women. When a local woman's club is part of a federation it is affiliated with that federation. An individual woman joins the St. Anne Sodality, but the St. Anne Sodality affiliates with the Deanery, diocesan and national council. Thus the woman belonging to the St. Anne Sodality in the parish has affiliated herself with an organization which is national in scope for it is united with organizations across the country. It is Diocesan in authority, for the council program is empowered by the Bishop of the diocese. It is local in function for it is united to the deanery, which is local by nature, and its work is carried out by parochial and interparochial member clubs throughout the country, under the direction of pastors and spiritual moderators.

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(1) Deanery, A district of a diocese, usually a territorial division. A dioces must be divided into deaneries by canon law (C.721).

(2) Diocese, The territory under the jurisdiction of a bishop, erected canonically only by the Holy See, which comprises the institutions and properties of the Church and people within the area.

The Military Council of Catholic Women (MCCW)

The Military Council of Catholic Women may be defined as a federation of Catholic Women's Clubs in the armed services. Its objective is to maintain a unified program of Catholic Action for service families throughout the world. Guidance and direction is provided by the Military Ordinariate (1) through the Catholic Military Chaplains. The MCCW Catholic Action Program is obtained through affiliation with the National Council of Catholic Women. The Military Council of Catholic Women is equivalent to a state-side diocesan council based on the character of the Military Ordinariate. The Military Council of Catholic Women coordinates Catholic Women's activities in the military areas, and enables Catholic women to participate in the apostolate of the hierarchy and directly in the work of the Catholic Military Chaplain.

At the close of World War II the military occupation of Europe began. As the housing and supplies became available military dependents were brought to Europe. With the ever increasing number of wives and children of military men arriving in Europe it soon became evident that programs for the religious education of the children and a means of spiritual development and growth had to be provided for adults.

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(1) Military Ordinariate, To explain the Military Ordinariate here is not within the scope of this paper. If there is doubt about what it is contact The Military Ordinariate at 30 East 51st Street, New York 22, N. Y. A pamphlet entitled "Vademecum" for the Priests serving the Military Vicariate of the United States will explain fully.

The already too few Catholic Chaplains began to establish societies and sodalities for the men and women. Care and supervision of these independent societies and sodalities added to the already heavy load most of the Catholic Chaplains were carrying. It was not at all uncommon for a Catholic Chaplain to provide coverage for three or four military establishments. Then too, there was the problem of maneuvers when the Catholic Chaplain had to accompany the troops to the training areas away from the permanently established camps and stations.

Added to these many difficult tasks was the language barrier. In most over-seas areas it was impossible to get civilian priests who spoke the English language. This same difficulty existed in trying to provide qualified religious education teachers for the religious education program for the dependent children. Some method must be devised to assist the Catholic Chaplains with this very important work.

In September 1956 a convention of Catholic Women was called at Berchtesgaden, Germany. This convention was called by Chaplain (LtCol) Charles Murphy, the Vicar Delegate of His Emminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York and Vicar to the Armed Forces of the United States. Invitations were sent out to all the Catholic Chaplains in the European Theater and to the Presidents of the already existing sodalities of women in the various camps, stations and military installations.

His Excellency, The Most Reverend Philip J. Furlong, D.D., Military Delegate, was the guest speaker at this first convention. It was to this same convention that Miss Margaret Mealey, Executive Secretary of the NCCW was invited. Through her dynamic personality and prowess for organization together with the Catholic Chaplains and the women representatives of the already existing Catholic Women's Clubs the idea of the Military Council of Catholic Women was brought forward for discussion.

As a follow-up to these discussions Miss Mary Donohue, Organizational Secretary of the NCCW, came to Europe to further explore the possibility of establishing the Military Council of Catholic Women. Through her tireless visits, to camps and stations, to area commands and headquarters, her explanations and urgings the MCCW began to take shape. On May 5, 1957 the MCCW was formally organized and established.

The first president, Mrs Hugh Kevin, together with the other officers, was appointed by Chaplain (Lt Col) Charles Murphy, the Vicar Delegate of His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York and Vicar to the Armed Forces of the United States. These appointed officers, together with Chaplain (Lt Col) Charles Murphy then worked out the details of the constitution and by-laws in accordance with the constitution and by-laws of the NCCW, making the necessary changes to fit the military situation. Those appointed officers continued in office until the Fall of 1957 at which time the Second Convention of Catholic Women was held

in Berchtesgaden, Germany. It was at this Second Convention of Catholic Women that the first group of officers were elected to hold office for one year. Each year, in September, the Convention of Catholic Women is held and the officers for the following year are elected.

Geographical Structure of MCCW

With the establishment of the framework of the MCCW established a major step had been taken. There remained, however, the task of making this organization operational and fruitful. It was agreed by the Vicar Delegate, Chaplain (Lt Col) Charles Murphy, and the appointed officers that the MCCW would be patterned after the Diocesan Council in the United States. However, the geographical area encompassed by the Military Council was much larger and more diversified than the diocesan area common to the continental United States. The diocesan council has well defined boundaries within which to operate. In the European Theater none of these boundaries existed within the Military Council. The individual camp, station and installation was the only boundary existing. These camps, stations and installations might well be compared to a parish. The question was "how could this, wide flung council, be made to operate efficiently and fruitfully"?

A study of the military geographical structure made by Chaplain (Lt Col) Charles Murphy and the appointed officers provided the answer. The United States Army in Europe was divided into specific areas. Why not organize the MCCW along these same lines? There were the Headquarters Area Command, the Northern Area Command, the Southern Area Command, the Western Area Command, the Berlin Command and the Communications Zone Command. In countries where these geographical divisions were not made the NCCW would include all Catholic Women's Clubs in that particular country, e.g. Turkey and England. This arrangement would then closely

parallel the structure of the parent organization in the continental United States, namely the diocesan and deanery councils. (See Annex A)

Organizational Structure, Headquarters MCCW

The Spiritual Moderator of MCCW is the Vicar Delegate of His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York and Vicar to the Armed Forces of the United States. The main operating staff at each level, Headquarters, Area Commands and individual countries, is a regular club-officer staff-system plus the standing committees. These standing committees are the heart and life line of the MCCW and are the following: (1) Spiritual Development; (2) Organization and Development; (3) Confraternity of Christian Doctrine; (4) International Relations. The officers are President, Vice-Presidents, (the Presidents of the area councils are the Vice-Presidents) Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and a Treasurer. The Executive Committee, a Board of Directors and the Standing Committee Chairman complete the MCCW regular operating staff. The MCCW President, Recording Secretary and Treasurer make up the Executive Committee with the power to act in any emergency. The Board of Directors is composed of the Vice-Presidents, Corresponding Secretary and one Delegate-at-Large from each area council, together with the Chairmen of the MCCW Standing Committees.

The Board of Directors manages all affairs of the federation, approves appointments and acts as trustee for the property of the federation. The President, Recording Secretary and Treasurer are elected at the annual convention by a Board composed of the Military Council Vice-Presidents and one Delegate-at-Large from each area council, who is elected to serve on the Board at the area council's annual election

meeting. The Corresponding Secretary and the Chairman of the Standing Committees are appointed by the MCCW President at the annual convention or immediately there-after. All officers hold office for one year and are not eligible for office if their rotation date is less than a year from the time of election or appointment.

Area Councils in MCCW

An Area Council is composed of affiliated Chapel Groups within the geographical boundaries of a given military area, e.g. Northern Area Command. It is organized for greater convenience of meetings, and serves as a contact-center between the Headquarters Council in Heidelberg and the Chapel Groups. The Area Council brings the Military Council program directly to the individual Chapel Groups and in return, reports to the Headquarters Military Council on the activities and needs of the Chapel Groups. An Area Council brings all its Chapel Groups together, at least once a year, at an open meeting, which is help prior to the annual convention in Berchtesgaden, Germany. Since the requirements for assistance may vary from location to location each Area Council must interpret the Military Council program in terms of the needs of its specific area.

The Area Council officers and chairmen are the actual link between the Military Council Officers and Chairmen and the Chapel Group Officers and Chairmen. The Officers at the Area Council level include a spiritual director, appointed by the Vicar Delegate in Heidelberg, (one of the Catholic Chaplains in the area) a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer. These officers are elected at the Area Council meeting. Candidates for these offices are nominated by a committee which is made up of one member from each Chapel Group. The Board of Directors, Executive Committee and Chairmen of Area Council Standing Committees completes the regular staff. The standing committees at Area level are

identical to the committees at the Headquarters Military Council level. They hold office for one year and to be eligible must have at least one year before rotating to the United States. The Area Council Standing Committees are appointed by the Area Council President. The Area Council Board of Directors consists of the Area Council Officers, Presidents of the affiliated Chapel Groups and the Area Council Standing Committee Chairman. The Executive Committee consists of the President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Area Council and has the power to act in any emergency.

Chapel Groups in MCCW

In this portion of the paper the organization of MCCW at its lowest level will be discussed. It is well to remember that each Chapel Group is an independent organization affiliated with the MCCW. The MCCW does not interfere with the organizational nor the operational procedures in the individual Chapel Groups. Within the framework of the MCCW the individual Chapel Group remains independent and continues to do the work for which it was originated. It may meet monthly or as often as need dictates. Its affiliation with the MCCW simply unites it with the other Catholic Women's Clubs which are found in the military services throughout the world in foreign lands. This organization does not exist in the United States because the Catholic Women's Clubs in the United States can affiliate with the local deanery or diocesan Councils.

Ordinarily in Chapel Groups will be found the following officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer. When the Chapel Group affiliates, forms are provided for affiliation by the MCCW, a Standing Committee is appointed by the Spiritual Moderator, which consists of a Chairman in the four fields of primary interest to the MCCW, These four fields of interest, Spiritual Development, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, International Relations and Organization and Development were selected by His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York and Vicar to the Armed Forces of the United States. (1)

(1) Organizational HandBook, Article IIb.

However, since this is a federation, the Chapel Groups do not necessarily have to have Chairmen for all the MCCW committees. If, for example, a Chapel Group is not interested in International Relations, then a Chairman would not be appointed to head that particular committee.

> "True membership exists in the local units. It is here we find women at work. It is here we find Catholic Action in Action." (1)

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(1) Women at work - NCCW Publication - page 19

The Standing Committees of MCCW

"The Standing Committees are the heart and life-line of MCCW." (1) These committees are unique to the MCCW. As has been pointed out, the regularly elected officers are similar to those of any Catholic Woman's Club or organization. The Standing Committees are the only added elements to the already existing clubs. These committees are found at each of the council levels, Headquarters, Area Councils and Chapel Groups. As was previously pointed out His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York and Military Vicar to the Armed Forces of the United States selected the four fields of endeavour for the MCCW.

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(1) Organizational HandBook - Page 4

Confraternity of Christian Doctrine in MCCW

Since this is the most important of the Standing Committees a word on the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine is in order. In 1905 Pope St. Pius X decreed the canonical establishment of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine in every diocese and parish of the Catholic Church. This was incorporated in the New Code of Canon Law in 1917. Its purpose is to extend and improve education in the faith for converts, youth, and those unable to attain knowledge through the Catholic school system. In 1934 a committee of the Catholic hierarchy of the United States was set up to organize the work of the Confraternity. The work of the Confraternity in spreading knowledge and practice of the faith is accomplished in the following manner: religious training of Catholic children attending non-Catholic grade schools through classes of instructions either during the school term or vacation times; the instruction of Catholic high school students who are attending public high schools or vocational schools through study clubs or other means; by aiding parents in the religious instructions of their children at home; the providing of instructions for non-Catholics. It is also the objective of the Confraternity to provide, through a publications department, books, texts, discussion club aids, catechetical aids pamphlets and leaflets.

This committee cooperating with the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine introduces to Confraternity program to the Chapel Group. This

program directs the study of Christ's Life and teachings to develop in the laity a greater knowledge of the Faith and the Church. This committee assists the Catholic Chaplain in: a) planning and operating the catechism program; b) recruiting and training catechism teachers; c) sponsoring religious retreats; d) sponsoring religious vacation schools; e) organizing study and discussion clubs; f) planning programs of information for parents; g) organizing and directing training for teen-age groups; and lastly h) cooperating with movements to make the Catholic Faith better known and understood.

Spiritual Development Committee in MCCW

The purpose of this committee is to stimulate each member to greater personal sanctity and to enhance the religious life in the military family and home. These objectives are accomplished by assisting the Catholic Chaplain with the catechism program, encouraging attendance at special chapel devotions, encouraging special family devotions in the home, encouraging participation in the ligurgical movement, encouraging the salutary use of sacramentals and by practicing special devotions in the home during the months of May, October and November and during the Lenten and Advent seasons.

Just to mention a few examples of the above mentioned activities, the making of Baptismal Robes, the making and use of the Advent Wreathes, the Christmas decorations in accord with the true meaning of Christmas, the practice of saying family prayers in the evening and daily prayers for the intention of the MCCW will suffice.

International Relations in MCCW

The purpose of this committee is to create and help sustain good will and understanding with the local civilian people and community organizations surrounding the military establishment. Its activities center around the spiritual and corposral works of mercy which help to make the moral law operate in international life. Activities of this committee include such things as: a) patriotic celebrations both national and international; b) observance of United Nations Day; c) study of United Nations; d) contacts with local church and civic organizations; e) assistance to orphanages, old folks homes, hospitals and other charitable institutions; and f) makes available information to the Public Information Officer of events that have particular interest to the local populace. In short, it does whatever it can do to promote a better understanding of our way of life and makes a sincere effort to understand the way of life and customs of the country in which the organization is located. This committee differs from secular agencies in that the spiritual element of its purpose is always stressed.

Organization and Development Committee in MCCW

The purpose of this committee is to strengthen affiliated Chapel Groups through increased membership and through program guidance and to assist in the organization of new Chapel Groups where the need exists. This is a very important committee and must remain active at all levels to obtain effective over-all operation of the MCCW. This committee also serves as consultant in all phases of MCCW organization and purposes and works to promote affiliation with the federation.

Activities of this committee would include the following: a) assisting in the organization of new groups by advising on constitutions and programs; b) presenting MCCW programs to existing Catholic Women's Clubs which are not yet affiliated and working for their affiliation; c) organizing registeration systems (with the Chaplain's office or other military agencies) for the purpose of contacting new Catholic families assigned to the installation and welcoming newcomers promptly and inviting them to Chapel Group activities and meetings.

Evaluation of the MCCW

In evaluating the MCCW a quotation from the present Spiritual Moderator, Chaplain (Col) James J. Mc Mahon, will serve as a starting point. Msgr Mc Mahon had the following message to give to the MCCW in Report No. 7, May 1960. (1)

> "It is a sincere pleasure to report that your moderator is no longer new. Since the last quarterly report, in which it was admitted that there was a lot to learn, I have been exposed to the MCCW in action. District meetings have been attended; the Board of Directors meeting was monitored; key personnel have been met. The purpose of the organization is clear and the organizational structure is now understood. Catholic women have been seen "at work" in the field of the lay apostolate. What was seen makes me very happy and proud to be your moderator.
>
> There is a tendency among some priests and some lay people to fight organizations. The old story that 'we have never had this before', prevails. 'Back to the essentials and forget this modern stuff', is often heard. There were times in the past when I felt the same. However, times have changed. We must follow the advice of our church leaders, including the Vicar of Christ, to organize our Catholic people and knit them together with unity of purpose and unity of action.
>
> How beautifully this is accomplished through MCCW. At the District meetings it was evident that even if our organization stopped at this level a great deal could be accomplished. To one who has no idea how far this organization had advanced it was a delight to realize that representatives of many parochial groups were gathered together to assist each other, to exchange ideas, to discuss successes and failures and to plan for the future. This alone is a tremendous accomplishment.
>
> At the Board meeting in Wiesbaden the magnitude of the organization was evident. Representatives from areas in France, Italy and Germany met with their officers and committee chairmen of the Military Council. The top level of our organization was in action. The discussions dealt with the policies, plans and management of the affairs of the entire federation.
>
> It was truly remarkable to witness our women 'at work'. My own thoughts can be summarized in one statement - The Potential of our Catholic Women, under the banner of the Military Council of Catholic Women, is tremendous.

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(1) MCCW Report No. 7, May 1960, Heidelberg, Germany

Please accept my sincere congratulations for you accomplishments so far. You deserve thepraise of all our chaplains. Likewise, you deserve more publicity in the States. It is my intention to spread the news of your great work so that our Bishops and Priests at home will have a better knowledge and understanding on our Catholic activities in the Military."

Through the Spiritual Development Committee many have shared in a 'new life' in the Church. Personal sanctification is one of the programs of the MCCW and many programs have been organized and put into effect through the efforts of the MCCW. The block rosary, said daily at one of the homes of a member, attendance at Mass on a week day for a special intention, a more frequent reception of Holy Communion, family participation in the liturgy of the Church, special devotions in the homes during the months of May, October and November, lenten devotions in the home and a more careful observance of the season of advent are but a few of the means of personal sanctification sponsored and encouraged by the MCCW. It is very true that none of these are new devotions yet it is also true that the impetus given by the MCCW has revived them in many of the homes of the military families.

Even though the MCCW does not depend on nor stress the importance of large numbers, I feel that a partial list of the affiliated members, after only two and a half years of existence, will attest to the work which is being done by this organization. Today there are councils in Berlin, Frankfurt, Heidelburg, Kaiserslautern, Munich, Stuttgart, Wurzburg, Italy, Seville, Madrid, England, Netherlands, Turkey, the Pacific area, Verdun and Poitiers. Despite what some may say, this growth is an indication that the MCCW is fulfilling its mission in assisting the Catholic Military Chaplains.

Teaching catechism, training catechism teachers, census taking in the housing areas, care and maintainance of the altar linens and vestments are but a few of the ways in which the members of the MCCW are assisting the Catholic Chaplain directly. Indirectly these members are assisting, not only the Catholic Chaplains but the Nation and the Services by work among the native population in orphanages, old folks homes, civic organizations and church groups.

In conclusion there is, perhaps, no better way of evaluating this organization than by reechoing the message of Pope John XXIII to the NCCW.

Mrs. Mave Cecelia Ryan
President
Military Council of Catholic Women
c/o Catholic Chaplain
Hqs U S Army
Heidelberg, Germany

Dear Mrs. Ryan:

His Holiness Pope John XXIII has given me the pleasing duty of informing you that He has received your prayerful message and the Memorandum which you forwarded recently, illustrating the organization and activities of the MCCW.

The Holy Father bids me to say that it brought Him much consolation to learn of the meritorious work being accomplished by the Council. It is His fervent prayer that, under the enlightened guidance of the Military Ordinariate and the Chaplains, the Council's apostolate may produce an even more copious harvest of spiritual fruits.

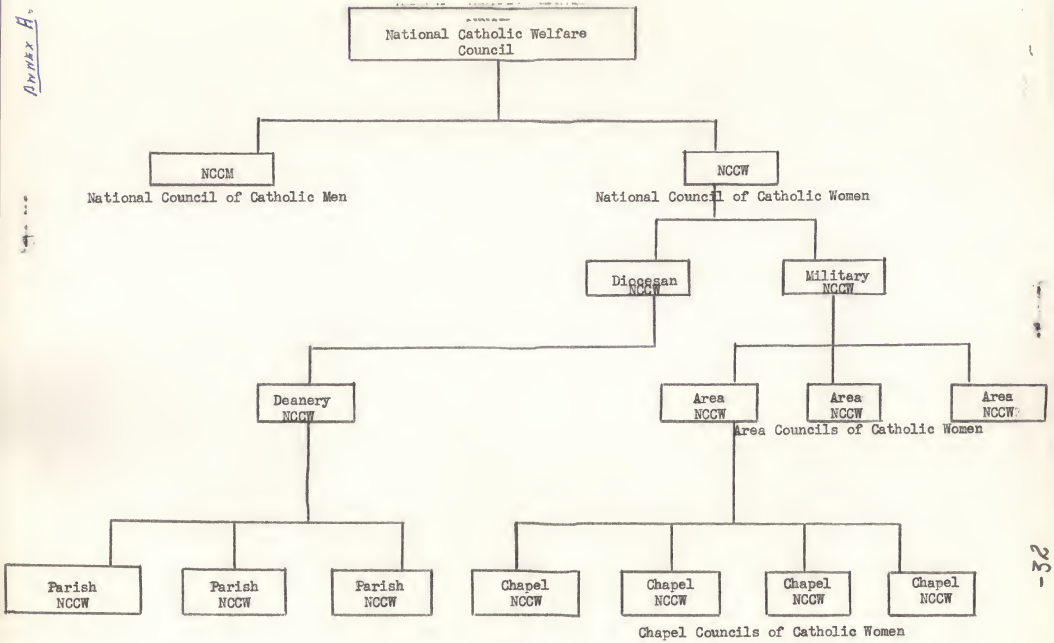
In pledge of that heavenly favor and in future token of His benevolent interest, the Pontiff cordially imparts to you and to the Officers and Members of the Military Council of Catholic Women, His paternal Apostolic Benediction.

With sentiments of religious devotion, I remain.

Yours faithfully in Christ,

Sua Eminenza Dominic Cardinale Tardini
(signature)

Annex H


National Catholic Welfare Council
NCCM
National Council of Catholic Men
NCCW
National Council of Catholic Women
Diocesan NCCW
Military NCCW
Deanery NCCW
Area NCCW
Area NCCW
Area NCCW
Area Councils of Catholic Women
Parish NCCW
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Chapel NCCW
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Chapel NCCW
Chapel NCCW
Chapel Councils of Catholic Women

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John J. Graisy

Military Council Of Catholic Women (MCCW)

by Chaplain Harold F. Roth, 1960

This monograph will endeavor to explain the MCCW and its role in assisting Catholic Chaplains in the religious care of Army dependents.

The Military Ordinariate through its military chaplains guides and directs the MCCW. The Catholic Action program which is adapted to the needs of the military parishes comes from the MCCW's affiliation with the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW).

MCCW is a voluntary union of Catholic Women's Chapel Groups located at overseas military installations.

As Catholic Women's Chapel Groups grew in number and importance with the arrival of American military families in Europe after World War II, coordination of these parochial organizations was seen to be of great value to both church and country. Plans for forming a Council were initiated in 1956 with the aid of the NCCW. May 1957 saw the beginning of the new MCCW.

One hundred Chapel Groups comprise the active affiliated members of MCCW. These are located in North Africa, Alaska, England, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Okinawa, Panama Canal Zone, Spain and Turkey. MCCW provides the specific and concrete means for each affiliate to carry out its spiritual, apostolic and intellectual purposes.

The Military Council operates by means of three contact and guidance levels, namely, Chapel Group, the Catholic women's organization at each overseas installation, Area Council, the Chapel Groups within a designated geographical limit, and Military Council, the administrative staff of officers and committee charimen, working under the guidance of the Moderator and Spiritual Director, a military chaplain.

The Standing Committees of MCCW are the means by which the Council presents its Catholic Action program. These committees are, Organization and Development, Family Life, Religious Education, Spiritual Development, and Public Relations and Publicity.

The Catholic Woman through her work as a lay apostle in the different levels of MCCW, shows her love for Christ and fulfills her obligation as a member of His Church. She surely gains blessings for her time and effort in His behalf. She sets good example for others and influences them to become active in the work of the Church by persevering in her responsibilities. Through her devotion she strengthens her character, her love for her fellowmen and her faith in God. The MCCW provides channels of activity where the Catholic woman may exercise and develop her leadership ability and love of God and neighbor, certainly valuable assets to both Church and Country.

The MCCW offers vital assistance to the military chaplains in parish affairs, participates in the community activities of their bases or posts, and represents American Catholic Womanhood in the countries where they are living.